

Message Text

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TAGS:ELAB, FAID, CY

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AAFLI VISIT TO CYPRUS

1. OFFICIALS OF ASIAN-AMERICAN FREE LABOR INSTITUTE (AAFLI) HAVE INFORMED DEPARTMENT OF POSSIBLE RPT POSSIBLE VISIT TO CYPRUS BY REPRESENTATIVE OF AAFLI TOWARD END JULY. OFFICIALS SAID PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD BE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS BEGUN IN GENEVA AT ILO WITH BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT TRADE UNION REPS ON POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE BY AAFLI TO CYPRIOT UNIONS. AAFLI SAID IT IN RECEIPT MORE THAN A YEAR AGO OF REQUEST FROM TURK CYPRIOTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN PURCHASING MEDICINES FOR LOCAL PHARMACIES RUN BY UNION AND MIGHT WELL AGREE TO SUCH ASSISTANCE. IF AGREED TO BY AAFLI, AFL-CIO IMPACT PROJECT MONEY WOULD BE USED, NOT RPT NOT FUNDS RECEIVED FROM AID.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AGREED THAT PROJECT TO PROVIDE SUCH MEDICINES WAS WORTHWHILE BUT STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF AAFLI REPS PROCEEDING WITH UTMOST CARE BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE IMPLIMENTATION OF ASSISTANCE BY AMERICAN ORGANIZATION TO TURKISH

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CATIONS OF ASSISTANCE BY AMERICAN ORGANIZATION TO TURKISH

UNION ONLY. THEY URGED THAT THE PR ASPECTS BE CAREFULLY
CONSIDERED AND CAUTIONED THAT A LOW PROFILE ON ASSISTANCE
TO TURKS WOULD BE MOST PRUDENT COURSE BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE
REACTION IN CYPRIOT PRESS WHICH CAPABLE OF PLAYING UP ESSEN-
TIALY SMALL MATTER INTO MAJOR ISSUE.

3. AAFLI OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE WELL AWARE OF PROBLEM
BUT FELT THEY COULD HANDLE IT IN COURSE OF THEIR DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH GREEKS. SHOULD LATTER EXPRESS INTEREST IN
COMPARABLE ASSISTANCE, AAFLI WAS PREPARED TO GIVE IT FULL
CONSIDERATION, BUT DOES NOT WANT TO GET INTO POSITION OF
PROVIDING AID TO GREEK UNION AS QUID PRO QUO FOR ANY
ASSISTANCE THEY MIGHT PROVIDE TO TURKS. TURKISH CYPRIOT
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IS ONE OF LONG STANDING WITH AAFLI
AND THEY INCLINED TO PROCEED. ON OTHER HAND, DISCUSSIONS
WITH GREEKS JUST INITIATED. IF LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS TO AID

ASSISTANCE WERE REMOVED OR IF IMPACT PROJECT MONEY COULD
BE USED AND GREEK CYPRIOT UNIONS COME UP WITH FEASIBLE
REQUEST, AAFLI VERY LIKELY WOULD PROCEED WITH THEM AS WELL.
IN MEANTIME, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD NOT WISH TO HOLD UP ON
TURKISH REQUEST.

4. PROPOSED IMPACT PROJECT WITH TURKISH CYPRIOT UNIONS IS
SMALL ONE (ALL IMPACT PROJECTS ARE LIMITED BY AFL-CIO
TO MAXIMUM OF \$5,000). IT STILL NOT RPT NOT CERTAIN THAT
PROJECT WILL RECEIVE AFL-CIO APPROVAL NOR THAT AAFLI REP-
RESENTATIVE, ROBERT WHOLEY, WILL COME TO CYPRUS. HOWEVER,
DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE EMBASSY AND REGIONAL LABATT TO STRESS
IN ANY DISCUSSIONS OF MATTER WITH WHOLEY (WHO WAS NOT
PRESENT AT WASHINGTON MEETINGS) TICKLISH NATURE OF ANY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO ONE GROUP ONLY ON CYPRUS. WHEN
DEPARTMENT LEARNS OF EITHER DEFINITE DECISION TO ASSIST
TURKS AND/OR APPROVAL OF WHOLEY VISIT TO CYPRUS, IT WILL
INFORM EMBASSY. SISCO

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